









CFL FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

Final Report

Project Summary

The Flagstaff Sustainability Program received a grant from Arizona Public Service (APS) to distribute 4,800 Compact Fluorescent Light (CFLs) bulbs to the Flagstaff community. In partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and the Northern Arizona Food Bank, the City distributed the energy efficient bulbs to food bank participants. The CFL-giveaway will help residents in need save energy and money by providing a simple and efficient lighting option.

Northern Arizona Food Bank and St. Mary's Food Bank assisted City staff with the distribution May 16 through August 1, 2011. In addition to the bulbs recipients received information on proper CFL disposal and home energy efficiency resources. This project is an excellent example of a public, private and non-profit partnership that benefited the greater Flagstaff community.

The CFL Food Bank Distribution Project met the following objectives:

- educate low-income families utilizing St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and the Northern Arizona Food Bank about the benefits of CFLs, energy efficiency and energy conservation;
- save low-income families money on utility bills;
- protect low-income families against rising energy costs, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;



• support partnerships between private, non-profit and government organizations.

The project supports the City of Flagstaff's residential energy efficiency goals. Through extensive programming, the City promotes energy efficiency through education, affordable living by reducing utility expenses and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of

programming include the Flagstaff Annual LED Holiday Light Swap, the Flagstaff Energy Meter Lending Program and the Flagstaff Residential Energy Retrofit Program.

Community Impact

The project served over 925 families and 3,000 residents. Each family received a total of five CFLs when they received a food donation. Annually, each family will save an estimated \$63.85 on their electric bill and will reduce energy consumption by 602.5 kilowatt hours (kWh). In sum the project will result in annual savings of \$61,296 in utility costs; reduction of 578,400 kWh of



energy and 890,736 pounds of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent for the Flagstaff community. CFLs will typically last 1,208 more days than incandescent bulbs, which leads to additional savings in bulb replacement costs.

The project positively impacted families living with distressed incomes. According to the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's Eric Wolverton, "the families served at the food bank more than likely

suffer with poor accommodations at their homes. Tight household budgets do not have the room to make upgrades that will benefit in terms of utility costs." This project benefits low income families by helping them save on other budget items, like utility bills, which can help offset their struggles with food insecurity.

Both Northern Arizona Food Bank and St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance expressed interest in partnering with the Flagstaff Sustainability Program on additional projects in the future. This project is an excellent example of what can be achieved with a strong public-private partnership. The Sustainability Program looks forward to a continued partnership with APS in an effort to reduce utility costs in the home, thereby promoting affordable living the Flagstaff community.